



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

MAR 21 2008

Kurt G. Chandler
Regional Environmental Scientist
Environment and Cultural Resources
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Eastern Regional Office
545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37214

Dear Mr. Chandler:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for the Oneida Nation of New York Conveyance of Lands into Trust (CEQ # 20080064). This review was conducted in accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7609, and Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C).

The FEIS analyzed the environmental impacts of placing up to 35,000 acres of land in Oneida and Madison Counties, New York into trust for the Oneida Nation of New York and evaluated nine different groupings of land for trust status. BIA has selected Alternative A, to convey 17,370 acres of Nation owned land to the U.S. government to be held in trust, as the preferred alternative. Based on our review, we do not anticipate that conveying up to the 17,370 acres now owned by the Oneida Nation of New York into trust will result in significant adverse impacts to the environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FEIS. If you have any questions, please call Lingard Knutson of my staff at (212) 637-3747.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Filippelli".

John Filippelli, Chief
Strategic Planning Multi-Media Programs Branch

cc: A. Raddant, DOI